

Message Text

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16

ACTION EUR-25

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EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 SPC-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 SCI-06

FPC-01 SAJ-01 DRC-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10

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R 141520Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

SECSTATE WASHDC 7066

UNCLAS HELSINKI 0085

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, BTRA, FI, UR

SUBJ: VISIT OF TENNESSEE GAS TRANSMISSION AND
TEXAS GAS REPRESENTATIVES TO MOSCOW

REF: HELSINKI 0058

1. THE AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE DEPARTING
HELSINKI AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 14 FOR MOSCOW AND WILL
BE STAYING AT INTOURIST HOTEL. THEY DO NOT PLAN
TO VISIT EMBASSY MOSCOW BUT WOULD BE GLAD TO TALK
TO EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES, IF DESIRED.

2. IN HELSINKI, THEY MET WITH FINNISH REPRESENTATIVES
OF NOKIA OY, VALMET, RAUMA REPOLA, WARTSILA, TRADING
FIRM OY KONTRAM AB, AND HELSINGIN OSAKE PANKKI (BANK),
IN ADDITION TO MEMBERS OF FINNISH FOREIGN TRADE
ASSOCIATION ON JANUARY 9.

3. ACCORDING TO THE AMERICAN BUSINESS REPRESENTA-
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TIVES, THE INITIAL PROTOCOL FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF

THE NATURAL GAS PIPELINE, THE NATURAL GAS LIQUEFYING PLANT AT PETSAMO, AND CONSTRUCTION OF LNG TANKERS WAS SIGNED LAST YEAR; THE GENERAL PROTOCOL, THEY HOPE, CAN BE SIGNED IN JUNE THIS YEAR; AND THAT PROJECT CAN GET UNDERWAY. NO DECISION, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN REACHED ON THEIR REQUEST FOR EXIM-BANK FINANCING; I.E., EXTENT OF FINANCING. THEY HAVE BEEN LOOKING INTO POSSIBILITIES OF OBTAINING EUROPEAN FINANCING IF US FINANCING FALLS SHORT. IN SUCH AN EVENT, HOWEVER, THEY THOUGHT SOME OF THE EQUIPMENT MIGHT HAVE TO BE PROCURED OUTSIDE OF US. PREFERABLY THEY WOULD LIKE TO OBTAIN ALL REQUIREMENTS IN US. EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT JACK RAY SAID THAT NATURAL GAS RESOURCES IN URALS ARE LARGER THAN IN ANY OTHER AREAS OF WORLD AND THAT HE FELT THE PROJECT WOULD HAVE IMPORTANT BENEFITS FOR US, GENERATING AN ANNUAL TRADE OF DOLS 750 MILLION ANNUALLY FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS. TOTAL PROJECT COSTS WILL BE IN MAGNITUDE OF DOLS 4.5 BILLION.

4. THE VISIT TO FINLAND WAS OBVIOUSLY LARGELY GENERATED BY FINNISH REPRESENTATIVES. ICE-BREAKER BUILDING FIRM, WARTSILA OY, ATTEMPTED TO SELL IDEA THAT PIPELINE COULD BE SHORTER IF BUILT DIRECTLY NORTHWARD INSTEAD OF TO PETSAMO. IN THIS CASE, FINNISH-BUILT ICE-BREAKERS MIGHT BE PURCHASED. RAY INDICATED TO ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR THAT THE IDEA DID NOT APPEAR ATTRACTIVE FROM ECONOMIC STANDPOINT.
WHITE

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